Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02 /070 W

-----011137Z 097071/15

R 311442Z MAR 77 FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5513 INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PFOR, UR, IS

SUBJECT: CHIEF RABBI TO VISIT MOSCOW?

- 1. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, ASHKENAZI CHIEF RABBI GOREN HAS BEEN INVITED TO VISIT MOSCOW. THE INVITATION WAS EXTENDED DURING A TELEPHONE CONVERSATION MARCH 30 WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE MOSCOW JEWISH COMMUNITY, SHALOM KLEINMAN.
- 2. THE SOURCE FOR THESE PRESS REPORTS WAS AN
 ASSISTANT TO GOREN WHO SAID THAT THE RABBI HAD CALLED THE
 MOSCOW CHIEF RABBI TO EXTEND PASSOVER GREETINGS.
 HOWEVER, THE CHIEF RABBI WAS ILL AND THE CALL WAS
 CONNECTED TO KLEINMAN. GOREN'S ASSISTANT TOLD THE
 PRESS THAT GOREN WOULD GO IF HE RECEIVED PERMISSION.
 ACCORDING TO THESE REPORTS GOREN ALSO ASKED KLEINMAN
 TO INTERCEDE FOR THE RELEASE OF SOVIET JEWISH
 ACTIVISTS ANATOLY SHCHARANSKY AND VLADIMIR SLEPAK;
 KLEINMAN DECLINED TO DO SO BUT FINALLY AGREED
 TO TRANSMIT A REQUEST FROM GOREN TO THE SOVIET
 AUTHORITIES.
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3. KLEINMAN ALSO SAID IT WAS THE MOSCOW CENTRAL SYNAGOGUE WHICH PREVENTED THE IMPORT OF MATZOH (SEE MOSCOW 3126). THIS WAS DONE, HE SAID, BECAUSE THE SALE OF MATZOH WAS THE SYNAGOGUE'S MAIN SOURCE OF INCOME. HOWEVER, THIS CLAIM WAS DENIED BY ISRAELI JEWISH IMMIGRANTS FROM THE SOVIET UNION,

ACCORDING TO THE PRESS REPORTS.

4. QUERIED ABOUT THE INVITATION BY THE CHARGE' THIS MORNING, JEWISH AGENCY TREASURER ARYE DULZIN TOLD HIM THAT HE HAD NOT HEARD ANYTHING ABOUT IT. DUNNIGAN

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Message Attributes

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Subject: CHIEF RABBI TO VISIT MOSCOW?

TAGS: PFOR, OTRA, UR, IS, (GOREN, RABBI), (KLEINMAN, SHALOM)

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